

# U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of Illinois

A. Courtney Cox, U.S. Attorney

June 2010



## A Message from the U.S. Attorney

### A SHORT HISTORY OF OUR DISTRICT

The Southern District of Illinois is one of the younger districts in the federal system. It was created in 1979. In 1819, soon after Illinois became a state, Congress established a United States District Court for the District of Illinois, which comprised the entire state. The District of Illinois was not located in any Judicial Circuit until 1837, when it became part of the Seventh Judicial Circuit. Before that time, all appeals were taken to the United States Supreme Court.

In 1855, the District of Illinois was divided into the Northern District (about the northern one third of the state) and the Southern District (about two thirds of the state). This simple state of affairs changed in 1905 when Congress created the strangely named Eastern District of Illinois, which began at Kankakee County and meandered in a south-west direction to St. Clair County, just east of St. Louis, Missouri.

Counties in the far southwestern portion of our state were included in this "Eastern District." The "South-eastern District" would have been a

more descriptive name for this District since it encompassed most of what would later become the present Southern District of Illinois. The last District Judge appointed in the Eastern District was Judge Harold Baker, appointed in September 1978.

Order in the naming of Illinois Districts was restored in October 1978 when Congress organized Illinois into three Judicial Districts: the Northern, Central, and Southern Districts. From that time forward, our District has been comprised of the southernmost 38 counties of Illinois, an area about the size of Maryland.

Five presidentially appointed United States Attorneys have served our District to date, beginning with James R. Burgess, Jr., who served from July 1977 through March 1979. The longest serving United States Attorney was Frederick J. Hess, who served from April 1982 through June 1993. He was followed by W. Charles Grace, who served from December 1993 through January 2002.

*A. Courtney Cox*

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### Link to our website:

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ils/index.html>

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**May 5-14, 2010:** Attendance was full at the 40-hour, Federal Bureau of Investigation Negotiation Class that was held at the Grace Church in Fairview Heights, Illinois.



**May 21 and 22, 2010:** Members of the United States Attorney's Office in cooperation with numerous city, county, state, and federal agents carried out Operation Kid Safe in St. Clair, Madison, and Monroe counties in Illinois. They were able to provide 407 kids with digital fingerprints and photographs for their parents. This is the fourth year we have been able to assist in the United States Secret Service's Program, Operation Kid Safe, and have completed over 3,500 identification cards for parents.



**May 22, 2010:** LECC Ron Shownes attended the going away celebration for Fairview Heights Police Chief, Ed Delmore. Ed has accepted the Chief's position in Gulf Shores, Alabama. Ed was presented a plaque for exceptional service to the law enforcement community in the Southern District of Illinois.

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

### HEROIN OVERDOSE DEATH

On June 11, 2010, **JAMIE E. DAY**, age 26, of Jerseyville, Illinois, was sentenced to 240 months' imprisonment, three years' supervised release, a \$1,000 fine, and a \$100 special assessment fee for distribution of heroin resulting in death. **DAY** was also ordered to pay restitution of \$7,655 to Willman's family. All federal sentences are served without the possibility of parole. **DAY** pled guilty to the charge on March 2, 2010, in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois.

**DAY** admitted that she had supplied heroin to Kelby Willman in Jerseyville during the evening hours of June 8-9, 2009, which was ingested by Willman and resulted in his death. Willman was 23 years old at the time of his death.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Jerseyville Police Department.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert L. Garrison.

### COCAINE

On June 7, 2010, **CHRISTOPHER V. DABNEY**, age 27, of Centralia, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. **DABNEY** was sentenced to 125 months' imprisonment, five years' supervised release, and a \$1,000 fine.

**DABNEY** had previously pled guilty to two counts in a federal indictment charging him with conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine and possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine.

The investigation was conducted by the Centralia Police Department, Clinton County Sheriff's Department, Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon

Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, Drug Enforcement Administration, Illinois State Police, Marion County Sheriff's Office, Marion County State's Attorney's Office, U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Marshals Service, and other law enforcement agencies pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the U.S. Attorney's Office, and federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.

On June 7, 2010, **LARRY D. LEE**, a/k/a "Papa," age 28, of Carbondale, Illinois, pled guilty in federal court in Benton, Illinois, to a one-count indictment charging him with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine.

The violation took place between November 2006 and February 2009, in Jackson and Union Counties in Illinois. The offense carries a penalty of 20 years to life imprisonment, ten years' supervised release, and a fine of up to \$8,000,000. **LEE** is currently being held without bond pending a sentencing which is currently scheduled for September 20, 2010.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office and the Murphysboro Police Department, in conjunction with the Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, Carbondale Police Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration. In addition, the Jackson County State's Attorney's Office assisted during the investigation. The investigation was conducted as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative.

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.

On June 9, 2010, **LATOYA M. McDANIEL**, age 23, of Marion, Illinois, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Benton, Illinois, in a one-count indictment charging her with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. The violation is alleged to have taken place between May 2007 and October 2009 in Jackson and Williamson Counties in Illinois.

The offense carries a penalty of five to 40 years' imprisonment, four years' supervised release, and a fine of up to \$2,000,000. **McDANIEL** made her initial appearance in federal court on June 14, 2010, and was ordered held without bond pending a jury trial which is currently scheduled for August 16, 2010.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.

On June 11, 2010, **MODJET BROWN**, age 29, of Fairview Heights, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, to 18 months' imprisonment, four years' supervised release, a \$350 fine, and a \$100 special assessment fee.

**BROWN** pled guilty on January 22, 2010, to an indictment charging him with two counts of distribution of five or more grams of crack cocaine. The offenses occurred in March and April 2009.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel T. Kapsak.

### METHAMPHETAMINE

On April 20, 2010, **THOMAS M. GLAAB, JR.**, age 28, of Anna, Illinois, **JOSIAH F. CATON**, age 29, and **JEREMY L. STONE**, age 23, both of Murphysboro, Illinois, **RODNEY C. KIMES**, age 40, of Peoria, Illinois, and **DAVID K. HOLIFIELD**, age 25, of Holcomb, Missouri, were indicted by a federal grand jury in East St. Louis, Illinois, in a one-count superseding indictment charging them with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine. The violation took place between April 2008 and September 2009 in Union and Jackson Counties in Illinois.

The offense carries a penalty of five to 40 years' imprisonment, four years' supervised release, and a fine of up to \$2,000,000. **GLAAB**, **HOLIFIELD**, **STONE**, and **KIMES** have previously appeared in federal court. **GLAAB** is currently a fugitive. **CATON** made his initial appearance in federal court on May 13, 2010, and on May 18, 2010, was ordered held without bond pending his jury trial which is currently scheduled for July 6, 2010.

The investigation was conducted by the Union County Sheriff's Office, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, and Murphysboro Police Department, in cooperation with Union County State's Attorney Tyler Edmonds and Jackson County State's Attorney Michael Wepsiec, as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

On May 14, 2010, **DUSTIN HOUK**, age 23, and **BRYAN HOUK**, age 25, both of Chester, Illinois, were sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois.

**DUSTIN HOUK** and **BRYAN HOUK** were each sentenced to 63 months' imprisonment, four years' supervised release, and a \$500 fine.

Both **DUSTIN** and **BRYAN HOUK** had previously pled guilty to a one-count federal indictment which charged that from about June 2008 until August 11, 2009, both **HOUKS** and others conspired to knowingly and intentionally manufacture methamphetamine.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Marshals Service, Randolph County Sheriff's Office, Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Chester Police Department.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.

On May 17, 2010, **BECKY D. MORGAN**, age 48, of Carterville, Illinois, and her son, **CORY M. STEARNS**, age 23, of Pomona, Illinois, were sentenced in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois. **MORGAN** and **STEARNS** had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging them with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine. **MORGAN** was sentenced to 135 months' imprisonment, five years' supervised release, and a \$400 fine. **STEARNS** was sentenced to 70 months' imprisonment, five years' supervised release, and a \$500 fine.

The conspiracy operated in Jackson, Williamson, and Union Counties in Illinois between August 2006 and October 2008.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, Illinois State Police Methamphetamine Response Team, COMIT Drug Task Force, Union County Sheriff's Office, Williamson County Sheriff's Office, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.

On May 17, 2010, **LOYD W. TUTOR, SR.**, age 52, of Cahokia, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. **TUTOR** was sentenced to 190 months' imprisonment, five years' supervised release, and a \$875 fine.

**TUTOR** had previously pled guilty to a one-count federal indictment which charged that from about June 2008 until August 11, 2009, **TUTOR** and others conspired to knowingly and intentionally manufacture more than 500 grams of methamphetamine.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Marshals Service, Randolph County Sheriff's Office, Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Chester Police Department.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.

On June 4, 2010, **JAMES E. KEMPFER**, age 38, of Chester, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. **KEMPFER** was sentenced to 120 months' imprisonment, five years' supervised release, and a \$250 fine.

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

**KEMPFER** had previously pled guilty to a one-count federal indictment, which charged that from about June 2008 until August 11, 2009, **KEMPFER** and others conspired to knowingly and intentionally manufacture methamphetamine.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Marshals Service, Randolph County Sheriff's Office, Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Chester Police Department.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.

On June 11, 2010, **STEVEN H. MADDEN**, age 44, of Fayetteville, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. **MADDEN** previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine. **MADDEN** was sentenced to 96 months' imprisonment, five years' supervised release, and a \$600 fine.

The violation took place between December 2007 and March 2009 in St. Clair, Madison, and Randolph Counties in Illinois. Five co-defendants have previously been sentenced to imprisonment terms ranging from 37 months to 240 months for their roles in the methamphetamine conspiracy.

The investigation was conducted by the Illinois State Police Methamphetamine Response Team as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.

## MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS ILLEGALLY DISPENSING DRUGS

On May 20, 2010, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, A. Courtney Cox, announced the results of ***Project Dr. Feelgood***, a three-year initiative spearheaded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (HHS/OIG) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), designed to identify and eradicate the medically unnecessary dispensing of prescription medications to Medicaid recipients and Medicare beneficiaries in the Southern District of Illinois.

In addition to identifying physicians who unlawfully prescribe controlled substances, ***Project Dr. Feelgood*** also sought to identify medical providers who divert controlled substances for their own personal use. To date, ***Project Dr. Feelgood*** has resulted in eight federal convictions and 13 state convictions. Also as a result of the project, 12 medical professionals have surrendered their DEA registrations and 21 medical providers have had their licenses suspended or put on probation by the State of Illinois.

***Project Dr. Feelgood*** cases were investigated and prosecuted as part of the Southern Illinois Healthcare Fraud Task Force, including agents, investigators, and prosecutors from HHS/OIG, DEA, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Illinois Criminal and Civil Divisions, Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Illinois Police Departments, Sheriffs' Offices, and Drug Task Forces. ***Project Dr. Feelgood*** targets have been successfully prosecuted federally in the Southern District of Illinois and through State's Attorneys' Offices in Jackson County (State's Attorney Mike Wepsiec), Massac County (State's Attorney Patrick Windhorst), Saline County (State's Attorney Michael Henshaw),

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

Union County (State's Attorney Tyler Edmonds), and Williamson County (State's Attorney Charles Garnati).

U.S. Attorney Cox stated: "Federal prosecutors in the Southern District of Illinois and the dedicated agents and prosecutors in the federal, state, and local law enforcement community with whom they work will continue their efforts to vigorously prosecute those who engage in fraudulent acts related to health care programs. The U.S. Attorney's Office is committed to take all appropriate criminal or civil legal action to deter those whose conduct places the citizens of the Southern District of Illinois at risk. This project is an example of the many good things that can be accomplished through the cooperative efforts of law enforcement."

"Prescription drug fraud diverts valuable resources from the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and in some cases, results in personal tragedy for program beneficiaries. HHS-OIG will continue to work with our law enforcement partners in pursuit of those who seek to defraud the Medicare and Medicaid prescription drug benefit," said HHS-OIG Special Agent-in-Charge Mike Fields.

Harry S. Sommers, Special Agent-in-Charge of the DEA St. Louis Division said, "These arrests and DEA registration actions should send a clear message to the medical practitioners who are acting outside the scope of legitimate medical practice that the DEA, along with our state, local, and federal counterparts, are committed to disrupting their illegal activities in an effort to protect the public health and safety."

According to White County Coroner Carl McVey, "The results of this project are ultimately saving lives in my county." Complaints from Coroner McVey led to the federal conviction of a

physician who practices in his county.

### BANK ROBBERY/FIREARMS OFFENSES

On May 18, 2010, **DANIEL L. RAVELLETTE**, age 61, of Vincennes, Indiana, pled guilty to one count of aggravated bank robbery and one count of using a firearm in relation to a crime of violence in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois.

The violations occurred on December 19, 2009, when **RAVELLETTE** and another male entered the Regions Bank in Lebanon, Illinois, wearing masks and gloves and carrying firearms. A third male waited outside the bank as a lookout and get-away driver. The tellers reported that during the robbery **RAVELLETTE** pointed the guns at them and threatened them.

**RAVELLETTE** fired several shots at the pursuing O'Fallon Police officer in an effort to escape. **RAVELLETTE** was eventually stopped and taken into custody. A search of **RAVELLETTE's** person revealed two loaded pistol magazines, a portable radio with an attached earpiece, a pistol holster, white plastic flex cuffs, a small caliber pistol, and a large amount of cash.

The charge of aggravated bank robbery carries a penalty of up to 25 years' imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both, and up to five years' supervised release. The charge of using a firearm in relation to a crime of violence carries a penalty of ten years to life imprisonment, to run consecutive to the sentence imposed on the aggravated robbery count, up to three years' supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000. Sentencing is currently scheduled for September 9, 2010, in East St. Louis, Illinois. Both of **RAVELLETTE's** co-defendants are in custody pending trial.

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

fled in the vehicle driven by the get-away driver. A loaded gun was found lying next to him. A search of Long's person revealed the following items, among other items: a stun gun, a leather blackjack, a police-style radio with an ear piece, duct tape, and two knives. Officers also recovered a large sum of money from **LONG**. **LONG** told the officers at the scene that he only robbed the bank to get money for his kids for Christmas because he was a three-time felon and could not get a job. He told the officers that he was not going to kill anyone.

One of the tellers was asked to look at **LONG** through a window of the bank to determine if he had been one of the bank robbers. The teller confirmed that he had been.

While at the Lebanon Police Department, and after being advised of his *Miranda* rights, **LONG** again informed the officers that he was only trying to get some Christmas money for his family. In an interview with FBI agents that same day, **LONG** again stated that he robbed the bank because he needed Christmas money for his children. **LONG** refused to talk about the others involved in the robbery, telling the agents, "I was caught. You know I am guilty." **LONG** did confirm, however, that only three men were involved in the robbery. **LONG** told the agents that, during the robbery, he had a gun, zip ties for restraining the tellers, a blackjack, a stun gun, and two knives. He stated that he dropped the zip ties in the bank before running out the rear door and that he threw his gun down when confronted by law enforcement officers.

Count 1, charging aggravated bank robbery, carries with it a penalty of up to 25 years' imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both, and up to five years' supervised release. Count 2, charging using a firearm in relation to a crime of violence,

carries with it a penalty of seven years' to life imprisonment, to run consecutive to the sentence imposed on count 1 of the indictment, a fine of \$250,000, or both, and a possible life term of supervised release. Sentencing is scheduled for September 9, 2010, in East St. Louis, Illinois.

The investigation was conducted by the Lebanon Police Department, O'Fallon Police Department, St. Clair Sheriff's Department, Mascoutah Police Department, Illinois State Police, and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

### POSSESSION OF WEAPON BY A FELON

On May 21, 2010, **RICO M. PERKINS**, age 24, of East St. Louis, Illinois, pled guilty to one count of unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon.

The violation occurred on June 17, 2009, when officers assisting the Illinois Department of Corrections in conducting parole compliance checks recovered a gun from the home that **PERKINS** shared with his grandmother. **PERKINS** admitted possession of the gun in a videotaped statement.

The offense of unlawful possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon carries with it a penalty of up to ten years' imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both, and up to three years' supervised release. Sentencing is currently scheduled for August 23, 2010, in East St. Louis, Illinois.

The investigation was conducted by the Illinois Department of Corrections, Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southwestern Illinois, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Lebanon Police Department, O'Fallon Police Department, Fairview Heights Police Department, Mascoutah Police Department, Illinois State Police, and St. Clair County Sheriff's Department.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

On June 14, 2010, **LAWRENCE W. NOASCONO**, age 37, of Herrin, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois. **NOASCONO**, who had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging him with aiding and abetting bank robbery, was sentenced to 77 months' imprisonment, three years' supervised release, a \$100 special assessment fee, and was ordered to pay \$3,700 in restitution to the First National Bank and Trust of Murphysboro.

The violation took place on August 3, 2009, in Murphysboro, Illinois.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, and the Illinois State Police Crime Lab, in cooperation with the Mt. Vernon Police Department, and Jackson County State's Attorney Michael Wepsiec, as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods DRAGUN Team Initiative.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.

On May 27, 2010, **DONALD C. LONG**, age 31, of Vincennes, Indiana, pled guilty to one count of aggravated bank robbery and one count of using a firearm in relation to a crime of violence.

The violation occurred on December 19,

2009, when **LONG** and another male entered the Regions Bank in Lebanon, Illinois, wearing masks and gloves and carrying firearms. A third male waited outside the bank as a lookout and getaway driver. While committing the robbery, the tellers reported that **LONG** and the other male pointed the guns at them while yelling at them to give the robbers their money or the robbers would kill them. **LONG** stood between two of the teller windows with a gun pointed on both of the tellers. **LONG** also had white zip ties in his hand.

The second male, when he noticed a teller trying to hide, ordered the teller back into the teller area, threatening to kill the other tellers if she did not comply. He forced a teller to give him access to the teller work station area. Once inside this area, the second man began yelling at the tellers to put the money into the bags that he provided them and not to include any dye packs or bait bills. While emptying their cash drawers, one of the tellers accidentally pulled the bait money which, in turn, activated the alarm.

The second male directed an employee to open the cash vault and indicated that he would wait when the teller told him that the vault was on a ten-second delay. He then asked the tellers what types of cars they were driving. He ordered the teller who was driving an SUV type vehicle to give him the keys to the vehicle. The second male followed the teller to the closet area where the teller kept her purse and keys. He warned the teller that if she did anything he would come to her house and kill her.

Once the police arrived, the third man who had been waiting outside in a car notified the two bank robbers via walkie-talkie. The two men fled the bank via a basement door. **LONG** was captured outside the bank, while the second man

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

### POSSESSION OF WEAPON BY AN INMATE

On May 27, 2010, **PABLO LUNA-FLORES**, age 32, an inmate at the Federal Correctional Institution in Greenville (FCI-Greenville), in Bond County, Illinois, was sentenced to 27 months' imprisonment, three years' supervised release, and was ordered to pay a special assessment of \$100. Under the law, **LUNA-FLORES'** new sentence must run consecutive to the sentence he is currently serving.

The violation occurred on December 6, 2009, when correctional officers at FCI-Greenville discovered a homemade weapon consisting of two metal pieces that were sharpened at the ends and held together by a rubber band that had been hidden on **LUNA-FLORES'** person. **LUNA-FLORES** admitted possession of the two sharpened metal pieces on two separate occasions. **LUNA-FLORES**, as a federal inmate, was prohibited from possessing this homemade weapon.

The investigation was conducted by the Special Investigative Services at FCI-Greenville and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

### CIVIL RIGHTS CONVICTION

On June 1, 2010, **ANTONIO C. MCWHERTER**, age 47, of Shiloh, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, for deprivation of civil rights. **MCWHERTER** pled guilty to the offense on May 27, 2010. **MCWHERTER** received three years' probation with

four months' home detention, a \$5,000 fine, a \$25 special assessment fee, and was ordered to pay restitution to the victim in the amount of \$3,489.

The violation occurred on January 30, 2006, in East St. Louis, Illinois, when the defendant, while acting under color of law as a police officer for the East St. Louis Police Department, struck an individual, D.C., in the mouth without legal justification. The assault occurred in the booking area of the East St. Louis Police Department.

As part of the plea agreement, **MCWHERTER** agreed to immediately resign from the East St. Louis Police Department. **MCWHERTER** also agreed not to seek or accept any law enforcement employment, as well as any position or assignment in the military which would require him to supervise, care for, direct, or, manage detainees or prisoners.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Department of Justice-Civil Rights Division Trial Attorneys Patricia Sumner and Jeff Blumberg and Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

### DOGFIGHTERS SENTENCED

On June 1, 2010, **WILLIAM BERRY**, age 35, of Lebanon, Illinois, **DERRICK L. COURTLAND**, age 43, of Centreville, Illinois, **JOHN BACON**, age 37, of Fairview Heights, Illinois, **JULIUS JACKSON**, age 41, of East St. Louis, Illinois, **JOSEPH ADDISON**, age 41, of East St. Louis, Illinois, **JAMES MILBURN**, Prairie du Rocher, Illinois, and **RICKY STRINGFELLOW**, age 37, of Centreville, Illinois, were sentenced for their involvement in conspiracy to commit unlawful activities of dog fighting.

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

The violation took place between November 18, 2008, and, at least, April 18, 2009, in St. Clair County in Illinois. This is the second of two indictments for dog fighting brought in the Southern District of Illinois.

**WILLIAM BERRY** was sentenced to a term of one year and one day incarceration followed by three years' supervised release. **DERRICK L. COURTLAND** was sentenced to a term of 18 months' incarceration followed by three years' supervised release. **JOHN BACON** was sentenced to a term of 16 months' incarceration followed by three years' supervised release. **JULIUS JACKSON** was sentenced to a term of 18 months' incarceration followed by three years' supervised release. **JOSEPH ADDISON** was sentenced to a term of 24 months' incarceration followed by three years' supervised release. **JAMES MILBURN** was sentenced to one year and one day incarceration followed by three years' supervised release. **RICKY STRINGFELLOW** was sentenced to 12 months' incarceration followed by three years' supervised release. All of the defendants were ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment fee and restitution to the Humane Society of Missouri for the care of the seized pit bulls.

Headed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Inspector General, this dog fighting investigation is the latest in a series of major animal fighting investigations conducted throughout the country since the passage of the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act, signed into law in May 2007, which makes it a felony to participate in the blood sport. Participating in the investigation were the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Humane Society of Missouri, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Jennifer Hudson and Michael Thompson.

On June 1, 2010, **TERRILL CLARK**, age 33, of Lithonia, Georgia, made his initial appearance on a federal indictment charging him with one count of conspiracy to commit unlawful activities of dog fighting. The violation allegedly took place between November 18, 2008, and April 18, 2009, in St. Clair County in Illinois. **CLARK's** jury trial is scheduled for September 20, 2010.

If convicted, **CLARK** faces a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment and/or fines of up to \$250,000, and three years' supervised release.

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The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Hudson.

### CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

On May 19, 2010, **JOSHUA BURGARD**, age 21, of Smithton, Illinois, was named in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in East St. Louis, Illinois, charging him with two counts of

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

receiving child pornography. The indictment alleges that the offenses occurred between December 1, 2009, and January 30, 2010.

**BURGARD** faces a possible penalty of five to twenty years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both, and five years to life supervised release as to each count.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims.

The investigation was conducted by the Smithsonian Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation Cybercrimes Task Force.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicole E. Gorovsky.

On May 19, 2010, **JOHN D. HARRAWOOD**, age 40, of Herrin, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois. **HARRAWOOD** was sentenced to 24 months' imprisonment, five years' supervised release, and a \$1,000 fine.

**HARRAWOOD** had previously pled guilty to a one-count federal indictment which charged that on March 28, 2007, **HARRAWOOD** possessed child pornography that had been mailed, or shipped or transported in interstate commerce by any means, including by computer.

The investigation was conducted by the Office of the Inspector General of the Veterans Affairs Office.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.

On May 20, 2010, **STEVEN R. SNODGRASS**, age 59, of Altamont, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois. **SNODGRASS** was sentenced to 360 months' imprisonment, lifetime supervised release, and a \$900 fine.

**SNODGRASS** was previously convicted on February 23, 2010, following a two-day jury trial of one count of attempting to receive child pornography and two counts of possessing child pornography. The evidence at trial established that **SNODGRASS** attempted to purchase child pornography during an undercover operation by federal law enforcement authorities. The evidence also established that **SNODGRASS** possessed child pornography in his residence in Altamont, Illinois. The offenses occurred between September 1 and October 16, 2008.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and Altamont Police Department.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys George A. Norwood and Nicole E. Gorovsky.

On May 28, 2010, **STEVEN G. FERNANDEZ**, age 49, of Collinsville, Illinois, was sentenced to 108 months' imprisonment, seven years' supervised release, a \$200 special assessment fee, and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

\$2,000. **FERNANDEZ** was charged with possession and receipt of child pornography. **FERNANDEZ** has been in federal custody since February 19, 2010.

**FERNANDEZ** pled guilty to the charges on January 22, 2010. The offenses occurred in Madison County in Illinois in February and March 2009. The investigation resulted from an international lead received by the Federal Bureau of Investigation about an individual downloading child pornography in the Collinsville area.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Collinsville Police Department, which has an officer who is cross-designated as a Special Federal Officer who serves on the FBI's Metro East Cyber Crimes Task Force.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Suzanne M. Garrison.

On June 2, 2010, **TONY C. JOHNSON**, age 27, of Granite City, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court after having previously pled guilty to a two-count indictment charging him with possession of child pornography and transportation of child pornography. The violations took place between August 21, 2008, and January 21, 2009, in Madison County in Illinois. **JOHNSON** was sentenced to 87 months' imprisonment, lifetime supervised release, and an \$850 fine.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigations Cybercrimes Task Force.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicole E. Gorovsky.

On June 4, 2010, **BILL L. WILMOTH, III**, age

37, of Junction City, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. **WILMOTH** was sentenced to 109 months' imprisonment, 15 years' supervised release, and a \$750 fine.

**WILMOTH** had previously pled guilty to a two-count federal indictment charging him with two counts of possession of child pornography.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Southern Illinois Cyber Crimes Task Force and the Illinois Attorney General's Office Crimes Against Children Task Force pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Childhood initiative.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.

On June 8, 2010, **STEVEN D. BALLINGER**, age 30, of Collinsville, Illinois, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Benton, Illinois, in a one-count indictment charging him with production of child pornography. The violation is alleged to have taken place on or about July 7, 2006, in St. Clair County in Illinois.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Fairview Heights Police Department.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

## COUNTERFEITING AND FIREARMS

On May 17, 2010, **MIROSLAV STOLICA**, age 42, of Okawville, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. **STOLICA** was sentenced to 120 months' imprisonment, three years' supervised release, a \$300

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

special assessment fee, and \$2,230 in restitution.

**STOLICA** had previously pled guilty on February 17, 2010, to two counts of dealing counterfeit obligations by making and selling \$100 bills and one count of possession of a firearm. These offenses occurred in St. Clair County in Illinois in February 2009.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Secret Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Granite City Police Department.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kelly B. Lake.

### ILLEGAL REENTRY

On May 24, 2010, **VICTOR HERNANDEZ-HERRERA**, a/k/a “Victor Manuel Gomez-Ramirez, age 28, of Mexico, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, to 90 months’ imprisonment, two years’ supervised release, a \$100 fine, and a \$100 special assessment fee. **HERNANDEZ-HERRERA** was advised that he was subject to deportation after serving his term of imprisonment. The sentence followed his guilty plea in December 2009 to an indictment charging him with illegal reentry by an aggravated felon. The violation took place on or about July 16, 2009, in Randolph County, Illinois.

According to the indictment and other court documents, **HERNANDEZ-HERRERA** was found in Randolph County, Illinois, when he was about to be released from the Illinois Department of Corrections after having completed a sentence imposed in Cook County, Illinois, on December 17, 2005, for residential burglary. **HERNANDEZ-HERRERA** had previously been removed from the

United States on June 3, 2004, and had unlawfully reentered the United States thereafter.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kit R. Morrissey.

### MULTIPLE FRAUD CHARGES

On May 28, 2010, **NICHOLAS A. SMIRNOW**, age 53, of Buck Estate, Alfonso, Cavite, Philippines, formerly of Baysville, Ontario, Canada, was charged in a ten-count criminal complaint alleging one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud, wire fraud, securities fraud, and money laundering; three counts of mail fraud; four counts of wire fraud; and one count of securities fraud.

The complaint alleges that between 2007 and 2009, **SMIRNOW** engaged in a massive international Ponzi scheme that resulted in losses of \$70,000,000 to over 40,000 investors in over 120 countries and six continents. United States residents in 48 states (every state except Maine and Vermont) lost money in **SMIRNOW’S** investment scheme. The scheme is alleged to have operated from Canada and the Philippines, through a website hosted in the Netherlands, and through a company incorporated in the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean. **SMIRNOW** called his investment scam “Pathway to Prosperity” and he allegedly used an internet website to snare investors.

The *Pathway to Prosperity* website claimed that investors could earn extremely high rates of returns with minimal or no risk, the hallmark, according to the complaint, of a “high yield investment scam.” According to the complaint, investors were offered their choice of seven, 15, 30,

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

partners to investigate and prosecute significant financial crimes, ensure just and effective punishment for those who perpetrate financial crimes, combat discrimination in the lending and financial markets, and recover proceeds for victims of financial crimes.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service - Chicago Division, with substantial assistance from Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division and the Ontario Provincial Police in Canada. Assistance was also provided by the Rotterdam-Rijnmond Regional Police in Rotterdam in the Netherlands, Filipino authorities, the Illinois Securities Department, and the Ontario Securities Commission in Canada.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bruce E. Reppert.

On June 3, 2010, **JAMES SCOTT SCHLUETER**, age 50, of St. Louis, Missouri, was sentenced on one count of securities fraud, one count of mail fraud, and one count of wire fraud. The violations took place between April 2006 and April 2008 in St. Clair County in Illinois. At the time of his plea, **SCHLUETER** stipulated that he engaged in a fraudulent investment scheme in which he offered and sold to the public false securities in the form of investment contracts when, in fact, no securities were purchased on behalf of the victim investors. Five different victims of this illegal conduct have been identified.

**SCHLUETER** was sentenced to four years' imprisonment, three years' supervised release, a \$100 special assessment fee, and ordered to repay victims \$322,909.36.

The investigation was conducted by the Illinois Secretary of State - Securities Department,

Federal Bureau of Investigation, and U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Hudson.

## Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

and 60 day plans. At the daily interest rates promised by **SMIRNOW**, a seven day plan supposedly produced an annual return of 546% and a 60 day plan supposedly was returning an annual return of 720%. Fifteen and 30 day plans supposedly returned equally spectacular rates of return. If an investor reinvested both his original investment and the supposed earnings that **Pathway to Prosperity** promised on a seven day program, for instance, at the daily interest rate quoted by **SMIRNOW**, the annual return would have been approximately 17,000%.

The complaint alleges that **Pathway to Prosperity** was a Ponzi scheme. While some earlier investors received a substantial return on their investment, most investors lost everything. The complaint alleges that **Pathway to Prosperity** made few, if any, legitimate investments.

Count 1, charging conspiracy, and count 10, charging securities fraud, are each punishable by up to five years' imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both. Counts 2 through 5, charging mail fraud, and counts 6 through 9, charging wire fraud, are each punishable by up to 20 years' imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both. Each count also carries with it a term of up to three years' supervised release.

The countries where investors in **Pathway to Prosperity** resided included: the United States, Canada, and Mexico in North America; Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, and Panama in Central America; Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela in South America; the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Netherlands Antilles, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, the Grenadines, Trinidad, and

Tobago in the Caribbean; Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Andorra, Portugal, Spain, Malta, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russian Federation, Belarus, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Republic of Georgia, Greece, Macedonia, Croatia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Yugoslavia in Europe; Turkey, Cyprus, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Republic of Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Taiwan, South Korea, North Korea, Peoples Republic of China, Peoples Republic of China Hong Kong SAR, Singapore, Macau, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Japan in Asia.

The scheme is alleged to have victimized residents in 18 of the 38 counties comprising the Southern District of Illinois (St. Clair, Madison, Calhoun, Clinton, Crawford, Effingham, Franklin, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jersey, Lawrence, Marion, Randolph, Richland, Washington, Wayne, and Williamson).

This law enforcement is part of President Barack Obama's Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force. President Obama established the interagency Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force to wage an aggressive, coordinated, and proactive effort to investigate and prosecute financial crimes. The task force includes representatives from a broad range of federal agencies, regulatory authorities, inspectors general, and state and local law enforcement, who working together bring to bear a powerful array of criminal and civil enforcement resources. The task force is working to improve efforts across the federal executive branch and with state and local

### June 1

- Israel: Terrorist group HAMAS claims responsibility for Tel Aviv disco suicide bomb that kills 20 and wounds 120 others. (2001)
- Kenya: Beginning of self-rule also known as Madaraka Day. (1963)
- Greece: Proclamation of the Republic. The royal family was sent into exile following a military coup d'état. Coup d'état is the sudden unconstitutional deposition of a government, usually by a small group of the existing state establishment, typically the military, that replaces the deposed government with another body; either civil or military. (1973)
- Lebanon and Syria: Syria entered the civil war in Lebanon on the side of the Christian Phalange and against the Palestinians and their Moslem allies. In response, Abu Nidal renamed his terrorist group, then based in Iraq, the Black June Organization and began attacking Syrian targets. (1976)
- Lebanon: Prime Minister Rashid Karami was assassinated when a bomb exploded aboard his military helicopter. Selim al-Hoss was named acting prime minister. (1987)
- Iraq: Unknown group explodes car bomb in front of Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's office, killing 25 and wounding many more. (2004)
- Canada: Police arrest 17 alleged terrorists in Ontario; group believed to be planning attacks using truck bombs and small-arms fire. (2006)
- United States: Abdulhakim Mujaid Muhammad, formerly known as Carlos Bledsoe, shot and killed a military recruiter at a Army and Navy Recruitment Center and injured another in Little Rock, Arkansas. The attack killed Pvt. William Long, while Pvt. Quinton Ezeagwula suffered non-life threatening injuries. Describing the attack as something that has "been on" his mind "for awhile" and that "was just...heat of the moment," Muhammed explained that "U.S. soldiers are killing innocent Muslim men and women. We believe that we have to strike back. We believe in eye for an eye. We don't believe in turning the other cheek." For Muhammed, who was enraged by allegations that U.S. military personnel desecrated the Quran and raped and murdered Muslims, "the shooting was an act, for the sake of God, for the sake of Allah, the Lord of all the world, and also a retaliation on U.S. military." According to the FBI, Muhammed also "conducted Google map searches related to Jewish entities, a Baptist church, a child care facility, a U.S. post office, and military recruiting centers in Atlanta, Georgia; Little Rock, Arkansas; Louisville, Kentucky; New York City, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Memphis, Tennessee." (2009)

### June 2

- United States: Timothy McVeigh, a U.S. Army veteran and former security guard, was convicted of detonating a truck bomb in front of the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995, killing 168 people, including 19 children under the age of six. It was the deadliest act of terrorism within the U.S. prior to the September 11, 2001, attacks and is referred to as the Oklahoma City bombing. McVeigh, a militia movement sympathizer, sought revenge against the federal government for the Waco siege, which ended in the deaths of 76 people exactly two years earlier. He also hoped to inspire a revolt against what he considered a tyrannical federal government. He was convicted of 11 federal offenses, sentenced to death, and executed on June 11, 2001. Terry Nichols and Michael Fortier were also convicted in the plot. (1997)
- Canada: Police arrest 17 alleged terrorists in Ontario; group believed to be planning attacks using truck bombs and small-arms fire. (2006)

### June 3

- United States: Gordon Kahl, of Posse Comitatus, was killed during an exchange of gunfire with U.S. Marshals. In 1967, Kahl wrote a letter to the Internal Revenue Service stating that he would no longer pay taxes to them in his words, "Synagogue of Satan under the 2nd plank of the Communist Manifesto." During the 1970s, Kahl organized the first Texas chapter of the Posse Comitatus. In 1976 he appeared on a Texas television program stating that the income tax was illegal and encouraging others not to pay their income taxes. In February 1983, U.S. Marshals attempted to arrest Kahl as he was leaving a meeting in Medina, North Dakota. The conflict began when federal marshals created a road block north of Medina. During the shootout, U.S. Marshal Kenneth Muir and Deputy Marshal Bob Cheshire were killed. Kahl took a vehicle belonging to a law enforcement officer and fled to Arkansas. A tip was received that Kahl was hiding in an earth-bermed passive solar home in Smithville, Arkansas. Another shootout ensued where Kahl and Lawrence County Sheriff Gene Matthews were killed. (1983)

United States: Authorities disrupt plot to blow up a system of jet fuel supply tanks and the 40 miles of connecting pipeline at John F. Kennedy International Airport, New York City. Four men were indicted. One suspect was a U.S. citizen and one, Abdul Kadir, was a former member of parliament in Guyana. The airport was targeted because one of the suspects saw arms shipments and missiles being shipped to Israel from that locale. (2007)

United States: The Earth Liberation Front (ELF) claimed responsibility for the arson of a luxury home in the Sterling Oaks development of Chico, California. "Save our bio-region ELF" was printed on the sidewalk. (2003)

United Kingdom: Abu Nidal Organization, a militant Palestinian terrorist group, critically wounded the Israeli Ambassador during an assassination attempt in London. (1982)

China: The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) killed hundreds (maybe thousands) of Chinese civilians in the Tiananmen square area beginning on the evening of June 3 and on into June 4 during a violent crackdown against student dissidents. (1989)

Iran: Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini died on this day; however, Iranians mark the anniversary on June 4, the date his death was announced. His funeral was three days later. Khomeini had been critical of the monarchy and its efforts to link to America and secularize. In 1964, he was sent into exile. In 1979, Khomeini returned to become the Supreme Leader and establish an Islamic state. He conducted a campaign to export the Islamic revolution to surrounding Muslim countries. (1989)

### June 4

United States: ELF graffiti, "ELF" and "stop sprawl," were spray painted on equipment at the scene of a fire at a residential construction site in Washington Township, Michigan, which destroyed two houses. The same message was found on March 21, 2003, when two unfinished houses were destroyed due to arson in Superior Township, Michigan. (2003)

Israel and Lebanon: Israeli planes bomb Beirut two days before Israel invaded Lebanon on June 6. Israel's plan was designed first to create a buffer between Lebanon and Northern Israel. The incursion quickly grew to a full-fledged attempt to destroy the P.L.O. Israeli forces advanced to Beirut. In the course of that advance, a large-scale conflict broke out with Syria. (1982)

### June 5

Israel: Car packed with explosives crashes into a bus, killing 17 and injuring 38; Islamic Jihad responsible. (2002)

Iran: Day of Uprising commemorates the arrest of the Ayatollah Khomeini by the Shah's police. Also the day of mourning and revolution day. (1963)

Russia: Adilgerey Magomedtagirov, Dagestan's Interior Minister, was shot dead by a sniper at a wedding. (2009)

### June 6

Middle East, North Africa: The Six-Day War fought between Israel on one side and Egypt, Jordan, and Syria on the other side. The Arab nations received aid from Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Algeria. The entire war lasted 132 hours and 30 minutes (less than six days) while the fighting on the Egyptian side only lasted four days. (1967)

Afghanistan: Taxi rigged with explosives crashes into a bus carrying German peacekeepers in Kabul, killing five and injuring 29; reportedly al-Qaeda was responsible. (2003)

Canada: At 7:13 a.m., an explosion at Tokyo Narita International Airport killed two baggage handlers and injured four. The bomb in a bag was intended for Air India Flight 301 with 177 passengers and crew on board bound for Bangkok International Airport. Fifty-five minutes later, at 8:13 Irish time, Air India Flight 182 exploded mid-air and plunged into the Atlantic Ocean off the west coast of Ireland, killing 329 people. The incidents are believed to be related and are connected to the Sikh separatist group operating in Canada known as the Babbar Khalsa. The only man convicted of any involvement in the bombing was bomb maker Inderjit Singh Reyat. He received a ten-year sentence of two counts of manslaughter and four explosives charges after being found guilty in a Vancouver court room (1985).

United States: James Byrd Jr., an African-American, was murdered in Jasper, Texas. The murderers, Shawn Allen Berry, Lawrence Russell Brewer, and John William King, wrapped a heavy logging chain around his ankles, hooked the chain to a pickup truck, and then dragged Byrd about three miles along a macadam pavement as the truck swerved from side to side. Death came when Byrd's body hit the edge of a culvert, which cut off his arm and head. The murderers unchained his torso and left it on the shoulder of the road in front of the town's black cemetery. The driver of the truck, Berry, was spared the death penalty and was sentenced to life in prison.

Brewer, a white supremacist, was convicted and sentenced to death. King was accused of beating Byrd with a bat and then dragging him behind a truck until he died. King was sentenced to death for his role in Byrd's kidnapping and murder. His lynching-by-dragging gave impetus to passage of a Texas hate crimes law and later the federal hate crimes law, officially known as the October 22, 2009, Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, commonly known as the "Matthew Shepard Act." President Barack Obama signed the bill into law on October 28, 2009. (1998)

United States: A car bomb exploded outside a U.S. military base in Taji killing six people and injuring 20 others. (2004)

India: Indian troops stormed the golden temple of Amritsar, killing 300 Sikhs. (1984)

### June 7

United States: Osama bin Laden added to the FBI's most wanted list. (1999)

Iraq: Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi, leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, killed during Coalition raid. Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi was a Jordanian militant Islamist who ran a paramilitary training camp in Afghanistan. He became known after going to Iraq and being responsible for a series of bombings, beheadings, and attacks during the Iraq War. (2006)

Philippines: Missionary Martin Burnham killed during gun battle between Philippine government troops and Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) captors. (2002)

Sri Lanka: Terrorist group Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) suicide bomber kills 22 and wounds 60 during war heroes procession. (2000)

### June 8

United States: USS Liberty, a United States Navy technical research ship, was attacked by Israeli jet fighter planes and motor torpedo boats during the ongoing Six-Day War. The combined air and sea attack killed 34 crew members (naval officers, seamen, two Marines, and a civilian), wounded 171 crew members, and severely damaged the ship. At the time, the ship was in international waters north of the Sinai Peninsula, about 25.5 nautical miles northwest from the Egyptian city of Arish. Both the Israeli and U.S. governments conducted inquiries into the incident and issued reports concluding that the attack was a mistake, due to Israeli confusion about the identity of the USS Liberty. Some U.S. diplomats, veterans, and intelligence officials involved in the incident continue to dispute these official findings, saying the Israeli attack on the USS Liberty was not a mistake. (1967)

Chile: Five hooded individuals stormed and threw Molotov cocktails inside a McDonald's restaurant in Santiago destroying the interior. (2004)

### June 9

Egypt: Suspected leader of al-Gama'at al-Islamiyya, Mustafa Abu-Rawwash, killed in Cairo; 40 members arrested. Al-Gama'at al-Islamiyya is an Egyptian Islamist movement and is considered a terrorist organization by the U.S., European Union, and Egyptian governments. The group is dedicated to the overthrow of the Egyptian government and replacing it with an Islamic state. (1997)

### June 10

Jordan: The Great Arab Revolt and Army Day. (1916)

Middle East: Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri co-signed a fatwā in the name of the World Islamic Front for Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders which declared the killing of North Americans and their allies an "individual duty for every Muslim" to "liberate the al-Aqsa Mosque (in Jerusalem) and the holy mosque (in Mecca) from their grip." A fatwā, in the Islamic faith, is a religious opinion concerning Islamic law issued by an Islamic scholar. In Sunni Islam any fatwā is non-binding, whereas in Shia Islam it could be considered by an individual as binding, depending on his or her relation to the scholar. The person who issues a fatwā is called an issuer of a fatwā. This is not necessarily a formal position since most Muslims argue that anyone trained in Islamic law may give an opinion (fatwā) on its teachings. If a fatwā does not break new ground, then it is simply called a ruling. At the public announcement of the fatwā bin Laden announced that North Americans are "very easy targets." He told the attending journalists, "You will see the results of this in a very short time." In December 1998, the Director of Central Intelligence Counterterrorist Center reported to the president that al-Qaeda was preparing for attacks in the U.S., including the training of personnel to hijack aircraft. (1998)

Ingushetia: Deputy Head of the Ingush Supreme Court, Aza Gazgireyeva, was shot on her way to work. (2009)

United States: James Wenneker von Brunn, age 88, walked into the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and opened fire. He killed a security guard and was fatally wounded by the security guards return fire. Wenneker von Brunn was a white supremacist and neo-Nazi. (2009)

### June 11

United States: Timothy McVeigh was executed. (2001)

### June 11-19

United States: Paul Johnson, an American helicopter engineer who lived in Saudi Arabia, was taken hostage by terrorists. Johnson, who worked for Lockheed Martin, was stopped at a fake police checkpoint. His kidnappers called themselves Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. The group posted a video of a blindfolded Johnson on an Islamist website on June 15, and threatened to kill him unless all al-Qaeda prisoners were released from Saudi jails within 72 hours and his murder was recorded on videotape. (2004)

### June 12

Lebanon: Abu Nidal, previous leader of the Abu Nidal Organization, a militant Palestinian group, and three others stand trial in absentia for 1994 murder of Jordanian diplomat in Lebanon. Abu Nidal died of gunshot wounds in Baghdad in August 2002. Palestinian sources believe he was killed on the orders of Saddam Hussein, but the Iraqi government insisted he had committed suicide. (2001)

Bedian: A suicide attacker killed five men, including religious scholar Sarfraz Naeemi. Terrorists tried to take over the Elite Force and police training schools in Bedian and Manawan. Reportedly 20 people were killed in the incident. (2009)

### June 13

Iraq: Second bombing of al-Askari (Golden Dome) Mosque in Samarra'. No casualties, but mosque's two 10-story minarets destroyed. First bombing on June 22, 2006, destroyed mosque's golden dome. (2007)

Ingushetia: Bashir Aushev, a Russian-Ingush politician who served as the Deputy Prime Minister from 2002 until 2008, was shot and killed outside of his home in Nazran. Two unidentified gunmen opened fire on Aushev as he was exiting his car at his home. Aushev's assassination was part of a string of killings and attacks on officials throughout Ingushetia and other parts of Russia's North Caucasus region. (2009)

### June 14

United States: United States Army Birthday (1975)

United States: President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day. The American Flag may be seen as a simple piece of colored cloth, sewn together in a red, white, and blue design, a piece of cloth that of itself does nothing more than hang or blow in the wind. But to thousands of people throughout our nation's history, it has stood tall, standing as a monument of freedom, for all Americans. Men and woman have given their lives for it, fought for it, cried for it, and revered it as a symbol for the greatest country on earth. Books, songs, and poems have been written for it and our National Anthem was inspired by it. (1916)

Greece: Two Hizballah members hijack Trans World Airlines flight 847 and murder U.S. Navy diver, Robert Stethem, in Beirut. All of the other hostages were released and the hijackers were able to escape.

United States: "ELF" was scratched on ten new sport utility vehicles in Santa Cruz, California, causing an estimated \$15,000 worth in damages. (2003)

### June 15

India: Sudanese citizen Abdul Rauf Hawash and Indian national Shameem Sarvar were arrested for plotting to blow up U.S. Embassy in New Delhi on orders from Osama bin Laden. (2001)

### June 17

Iraq: Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi extremists bomb an Iraqi army recruitment center, killing 35 and wounding 138. (2004)

### June 18

United States: Denver radio host Alan Berg was murdered by individuals linked to "The Order" a Neo-Nazis group.

Israel: Suicide bomber detonates explosives on bus; 19 killed and 74 wounded; Islamic Jihad claims responsibility. (2002)

### June 19

Israel: Seven killed, 37 injured by a suicide bomber at a bus stop; al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade claims responsibility. (2002)

### June 21

United States: Courts indict 13 members of Saudi Hezbollah and one Lebanese Hezbollah member for the 1998 bombing of Khobar Towers that killed 19 U.S. airmen. (2001)

### June 23

Canada: Bomb explodes on Air India flight 182, killing 329; Sikhs Ripudaman Singh Malik and Ajaib Singh Bagri held responsible and captured on October 28, 2001. (1985)

United States: The Miami Bomb Plot to attack the Sears Tower. The Liberty City Seven were seven members of a small Miami, Florida, based religious group who called themselves the Seeds of David or Seeds of David. Described as a "bizarre cult," the seven were arrested and charged with terrorism-related offenses after a Federal Bureau of Investigation sting investigation. In federal court, three trials of the Liberty City Seven defendants took place. One defendant was acquitted in the first trial, but the jury deadlocked on the other six defendants and a mistrial occurred. The second trial also resulted in a deadlocked jury and a mistrial. On the third trial of the remaining six defendants, five were convicted on some of the counts, including the group's ringleader, Narseal Batiste, the only defendant to be convicted on all four charges. The charges centered around the group's attempted purchase of weapons from persons whom they believed were representatives of al-Qaeda (but whom were actually undercover FBI agents), and on a stated intention to destroy the Sears Tower in Chicago, the FBI field office in Miami, television and movie studios in Hollywood, the Empire State Building, and other targets. (2006)

### June 25

Saudi Arabia: The Khobar Towers bombing was a terrorist attack on a housing complex in the city of Khobar, Saudi Arabia. The Khobar Towers was being used to house foreign military personnel. Members of the terrorist organization Hezbollah Al-Hejaz exploded a sewage truck packed with explosives adjacent to Building #131 in the housing complex. This eight-story building housed U.S. Air Force personnel from the 4404th Wing, primarily from a deployed rescue squadron and deployed fighter squadron. In all, 19 U.S. servicemen and one Saudi were killed and 372 of many nationalities were wounded. (1996)

### June 27-28

Japan: Japanese Aum Shinrikyo cult released a sarin gas in Matsumoto killing eight people and injuring approximately 600 others. The Matsumoto incident was an act of domestic terrorism perpetrated by members of Aum Shinrikyo in Matsumoto, Japan, on the evening of June 27 and the morning of June 28. The Matsumoto incident preceded the better-known attack on the Tokyo subway in 1995. Several Aum Shinrikyo members were found guilty of masterminding both incidents. The main motive for the Matsumoto incident was trying to kill the judges handling fraud charges against Aum brought by land owners in Matsumoto in order to prevent the court from releasing the scheduled verdict. Aum had also used Matsumoto as a test for their future plans to release the gas in Tokyo. (1994)

### June 28

Iraq: U.S. Governor of the U.S. led coalition handed over legal documents transferring sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government, led by Iraqi chief justice Midhat al-Mahmood. (2004)

Greece: U.S. Defense Attaché, Navy Captain William Nordeen, assassinated in Athens by the November 17 terrorist group. (1988)

### June 29

Turkey: Kurdistan Workers' Party leader Abdullah Ocalan sentenced to be hanged for treason. (1999)

United Kingdom: Two car bombs were safely dismantled in London. (2007)

### June 30

United Kingdom: A burning vehicle was driven into Glasgow Airport. Iraqi doctors and others were arrested for this and for the June 29 attempted car bombings. (2007)